

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title of the Invention as follows.

“COMPOSITE STAIRCASE STRUCTURE”

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph at page 3, lines 19 through 26, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

In order to solve such problems, the invention ~~according to claim 1 in one~~ embodiment is a staircase composed of: a pair of right and left stringers composed of a truss structural members; and treads, wherein the truss structural members are each composed of: an upper chord member and a lower chord member which are inclined with the slope of the staircase; and a plurality of lattice members for linking the upper chord member and the lower chord member.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 7 through 9, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 2 in another embodiment~~ is the staircase according to Claim 1, wherein the truss structural members are linked to each other by treads.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, lines 16 through 20, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 3 in another embodiment~~ is the staircase according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of lattice members include a plurality of

horizontal lattice members disposed horizontally for each riser, and the treads are supported by the horizontal lattice members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 4, line 25, through page 5, line 2, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 4~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the truss structural members are linked to each other via a plurality of linking members which are laid horizontally at each riser height, and the treads are fixedly supported on the linking members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 10 through 12, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 5~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 4~~, wherein the linking members adjacent to each other in the height direction are linked to each other.

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, line 25, through page 6, line 2, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 6~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to any one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein the upper chord member and the lower chord member are each provided with node members, and the lattice members are joined with the node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, lines 13 through 19, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 7~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 6~~, wherein the node members are column-shaped and each have linking grooves formed on an outer surface thereof; the lattice members each have linking end parts formed on both ends; and the linking groove and the linking end parts have notches to be engaged with each other, and nodes are formed by press fitting the linking end parts into the linking grooves.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 1 through 6, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 8~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 6~~, wherein at least either the upper chord members or the lower chord members are continued in the direction of the staircase inclination and formed of members having groove parts opened to the lattice member side, and node members are attached inside the groove parts.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 21 through 25, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 9~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to any one of claims 1 through 5~~, wherein the truss structural members are each composed of node members each disposed at a node point; and frame members for linking adjacent node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, lines 15 through 21, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 10~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 9~~, wherein the node members are column-shaped and each have linking grooves on an outer surface thereof; the frame members each have linking end parts on both ends; and the linking grooves and the linking end parts have notches to be engaged with each other, and nodes are formed by press fitting the linking end parts into the linking grooves.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 3 through 7, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 11~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 9~~ further comprising a reinforcing member arranged along at least one of the upper chord member and the lower chord member, the reinforcing member being fixed with at least to three of the node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 24, through page 10, line 1, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 12~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to any one of Claims 1 through 5~~, wherein at least either between the right and left upper chord members or between the right and left lower chord members, a plate member is attached.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 9 through 13, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 13~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to any one of Claims 1 through 5~~, further comprising handrails positioned above the side end parts of the treads, and balusters that have lower ends joined with the truss structural members and support the handrails.

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, line 19, through page 11, line 13, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 14~~ in another embodiment is a staircase comprising a pair of right and left truss structural members which are inclined with the slope of the staircase and a plurality of treads disposed between the truss structural members, wherein each truss structural member is composed of an upper chord member having a plurality of column-shaped upper node members provided in series in the direction of the staircase inclination, a lower chord member having a plurality of column-shaped lower node members provided in series in the direction of the staircase inclination, and lattice members that link the upper chord member and the lower chord member to each other, each upper node member and each lower node member are disposed so that the axes thereof are orthogonal to the truss plane of the truss structural member, and on the outer circumferential faces thereof, a plurality of linking grooves are formed along the axes, and the lattice member has flat-shaped linking end parts that can fit into the linking grooves on both ends, one of the linking end parts is fitted into the

linking groove of the upper node member, the other one of the linking end parts is fitted into the linking groove of the lower node member, and the ends of each tread are fixed to the side end face of the upper node member and the side end face of the lower node member.

Please amend the paragraph at page 13, lines 11 through 19, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 15~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 14~~, wherein the upper chord members have upper frame members provided between the upper node members adjacent to each other in the direction of the staircase inclination, and the upper frame members have, on their both ends, flat-shaped linking end parts that can be fitted into the linking grooves of the upper node members, and the linking end parts are fitted into the linking grooves of the upper node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 17 through 25, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 16~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 14~~, wherein the lower chord members have lower frame members disposed between the lower node members adjacent to each other in the direction of the staircase inclination, and the lower frame members have, on their both ends, flat-shaped linking end parts that can be fitted into the linking grooves of the lower node members,

and the linking end parts have been fitted into the linking grooves of the lower node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 15, lines 23 through 27, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 17~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 14~~, wherein the upper chord member has an upper through member having a length from the upper end to the lower end of the upper chord member, and the upper through member is attached to the side end faces of the upper node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, lines 9 through 13, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 18~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 14~~, wherein the lower chord member has a lower through member having a length from the upper end to the lower end of the lower chord member, and the lower through member is attached to the side end faces of the lower node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 16, line 23, through page 17, line 1, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 19~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 14~~, wherein the upper node members and the lower node members are positioned at the same heights, and tread receiving members are fixed to the side end

faces of the upper node members and the side end faces of the lower node members, and the treads are fixed to the tread receiving members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, lines 12 through 16, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 20~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to any one of Claims 14 through 19~~, further comprising handrails positioned above the side end parts of the treads, and balusters the lower ends of which are joined to the truss structural member, and supporting the handrails.

Please amend the paragraph at page 17, line 22, through page 18, line 1, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 21~~ in another embodiment is a staircase in which treads are supported by a space truss structural member inclined with the slope of the staircase, wherein the space truss structural member is formed by linking a plurality of upper chord members linked to each other with lower chord members located below the midpoint of the adjacent ones of the upper chord members via lattice members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, line 27, through page 19, line 5, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 22~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 21~~, wherein the space truss structural member further comprises a second lower chord member below the aforementioned lower chord members, and the

lower chord members and the second lower chord member are linked to each other by lattice members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, lines 16 through 19, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 23~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 21 or 22~~, wherein the upper chord member and the lower chord member are each formed by linking a plurality of frame members via node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, line 25, through page 20, line 3, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 24~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 23~~, wherein a reinforcing member is disposed along at least either one of the upper chord member or the lower chord member of the space truss structural member, and the reinforcing member is fixed to three or more of successive node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 1 through 6, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 25~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 23~~, wherein the lattice members and the frame members each have linking end parts on both ends; on outer surfaces of the node members are formed linking

grooves into which the linking end parts can be fit; and the linking end parts are fit into the linking grooves.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 14 through 19, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 26~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 25~~, wherein adjacent ones of the upper chord members are linked to each other via linking frame members, and the linking frame members each have linking end parts on both ends, the linking end parts being fit into the linking grooves of the node members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, line 26, through page 22, line 7, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 27~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 21 or 22~~, wherein the upper chord members have connection pieces that project toward the lower chord members and the lower chord members have connection pieces that project toward the upper chord members, the lattice members have flat end parts on their both ends, and one of the flat end parts is joined to the connection piece of the upper chord member, and the other flat end part is joined to the connection piece of the lower chord member.

Please amend the paragraph at page 22, lines 15 through 22, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 28~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 27~~, wherein the upper chord members adjacent to each other are linked to each other by the linking frame members, the linking frame members have flat end parts on both ends thereof, each of the upper chord members has a connection piece projecting toward another adjacent upper chord member, and the flat end part of the linking frame member is joined to the connection piece.

Please amend the paragraph at page 23, lines 2 through 5, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 29~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 26 or 28~~, wherein the linking frame members include linking diagonal members which are diagonal to each of the upper chord members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 23, lines 14 through 23, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 30~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 21 or 22~~, wherein the upper chord member is formed of a member having a groove part opened at its lower chord member side, where the groove part houses the node members, and the lower chord member is formed by linking a plurality of frame members by node members, and the lattice member and the frame member have

linking end parts on their both ends, and on the outer faces of the node members, linking grooves into which the linking end parts can fit are formed, and the linking end parts are fitted into the linking grooves.

Please amend the paragraph at page 24, lines 6 through 9, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to claim 31~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to claim 21 or 22~~, wherein adjacent ones of the upper chord members are linked to each other via brackets for supporting the treads.

Please amend the paragraph at page 25, lines 2 through 4, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The invention ~~according to Claim 32~~ in another embodiment is the staircase ~~according to Claim 21 or 22~~, wherein the upper chord members adjacent to each other are linked to each other by a plate member.

Please amend the paragraph at page 26, lines 15 through 16, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 11(a) is an enlarged side view of the handrail, and FIG. 11(b) is a further enlarged view of area XI(A) in FIG. 11(a).

Please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 17 through 21, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 25(a) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~X-X~~ 25(a)-25(a) of FIG. 24, FIG. 25(b) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~Y1-Y1~~ 25(b)-25(b) of FIG. 24, and FIG. 25(c) is an end view taken along the line ~~YC-YC~~ 25(c)-25(c) of FIG. 24.

Please amend the paragraph at page 27, lines 22 through 24, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 26(a) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~Y2-Y2~~ 26(a)-26(a) of FIG. 24 and FIG. 26(b) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~Y3-Y3~~ 26(b)-26(b) of FIG. 24.

Please amend the paragraph at page 28, lines 2 through 5, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 29(a) is a cross sectional view of another example of the upper chord members of the staircase according to the fourth embodiment, and FIG. 29(b) is a cross sectional view of another example of the lower chord members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 28, lines 6 through 8, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 30 is an across sectional view taken along the line 30-30 of FIG. 31 of the upper chord members of the staircase according to the fifth embodiment of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 28, lines 15 through 17, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 34(a) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~Y5-Y5~~ 34(a)-34(a) of FIG. 32, and FIG. 34(b) is a cross sectional view of the linking members.

Please amend the paragraph at page 29, lines 14 through 16, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 43(a) is an enlarged view of FIG. 42, which is partly broken, and FIG. 43(b) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~A-A~~ 43(b)-43(b) of FIG. 43(a).

Please amend the paragraph at page 29, line 27, through page 30, line 2, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 47(a) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~B-B~~ 47(a)-47(a) of FIG. 43(a), and FIG. 47(b) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~C-C~~ 47(b)-47(b) of FIG. 43(a).

Please amend the paragraph at page 30, lines 3 through 6, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 48(a) is an enlarged view of the lower part of FIG. 42, FIG. 48(b) is a cross sectional view along ~~D-D~~ 48(b)-48(b) of FIG. 48(a), and FIG. 48(c) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~E-E~~ 48(c)-48(c) of FIG. 48(a).

Please amend the paragraph at page 30, lines 15 through 17, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 52(a) is an enlarged side view showing still another example of the staircase according to the ninth embodiment, and FIG. 52(b) is a cross sectional view along 52(b)-52(b) of FIG. 52(a).

Please amend the paragraph at page 31, lines 9 through 11, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 62 (a) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows 62(a)-62(a) ~~X1-X1~~ of FIG. 59, and FIG. 62(b) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows 62(b)-62(b) ~~X2-X2~~ of FIG. 62(a).

Please amend the paragraph (paragraph 172 in the published application) at page 35, lines 13 through 22, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The hubs 5, as shown in FIG. 8 and FIG. 9, are column-shaped extrusions or casts of aluminum alloy. The hubs 5 are each provided with a plurality of linking grooves 5a carved on their outer surface along their axial direction. The linking grooves 5a have the same cross sectional shape as the tip parts of the linking end parts 3a of the frame members 3 and the tip parts of the linking end parts 4a of the lattice members 4, and their inner walls are provided with notches which are formed to be engaged with the notches of the linking end parts 4a (3a). The hubs 5 arranged along the upper chord members 1 and the hubs 5 arranged along the lower chord members 2 have almost the same structure; however, they are shaped so as to be coincident with the number and angle of

the members to be joined with the hubs 5. For example, the hubs 5 on the upper chord members 1 side have a height which allows a lattice member 4, a frame member 3, and balusters 13 and 14 to be press fit therein sequentially (the length in the direction A of the linking grooves 5a) (See FIG. 8), and the hubs 5 on the lower chord members 2 side have a height which allows a frame member 3 and a lattice member 4 to be press fit therein sequentially (See FIG. 9).

Please amend the paragraph at page 41, line 26, through page 42, line 4, as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

Later, the linking end parts 13a and 14a on the bottom side of the balusters 13 and 14 are press fit into the linking grooves 5a of the hubs 5 so as to join the balusters 13 and 14 and the hubs 5 together. Since the linking end parts 13 have been cut at the coin angle α , the balusters 13 are joined at an inclination of $[\alpha]$ degree from the axis of the hubs 5.

Please amend the paragraph at page 42, lines 5 through 10, (paragraph 187 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 11(b), the expanded view XI(B) from FIG. 11(a), on the top and bottom faces of the hubs 5 are fixed washers 5d with bolts and nuts so as to prevent the frame members 3, the lattice members 4, and the like from being pulled out in the direction of the linking grooves 5a, and then the bolts and nuts are covered with ornamental caps 5c.

Please amend the paragraph at page 56, lines 17 through 26, (paragraph 229 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

In the fourth embodiment, the upper chord members 61 and the lower chord members 62 are each composed of members having a groove part, and the hubs 64 are installed inside the groove parts; however, like the staircase according to a fifth embodiment shown in FIG. 30 and FIG. 31, it is also possible to compose each of the upper chord members 71 and the lower chord members 72 by hollow members and to install the hubs 73 on the bottom faces of the upper chord members 71 and on the top faces of the lower chord members 72. FIG. 30 is a cross section view taken along the line ~~Y4-Y430-30~~ of FIG. 31.

Please amend the paragraph at page 61, lines 4 through 19, (paragraph 242 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The upper reinforcing members 81 can be fixed to the hubs by covering the upper reinforcing members 81 from the top of the upper chord members 1 in direction B (See FIG. 35(a) and FIG. 35(b)); disposing the linking members 83 on the top faces of the upper reinforcing members 81 in direction D (See FIG. 36); and inserting the bolts from the bottom faces of the hubs 5 to penetrate the upper reinforcing members 81 up to inside the linking members 83, and fixing them with the nuts. At this time, the linking members 83 are fixedly supported on the top faces of the upper reinforcing members 81. The lower reinforcing members 82 are fixed by screwing bolts which have been penetrated up to the top faces of the hubs 5 from their lower side with the nuts in direction C. Furthermore,

the lower reinforcing members 82 come into contact with the bottom faces of the hubs 5 composing the lower chord members 2 so as to prevent the pulling out of the frame members 3 and the lattice members 4 in the downward direction.

Please amend the paragraph at page 66, lines 1 through 7, (paragraph 255 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The board member 96 can be applied either across the whole length of the upper chord members 1 or a part of it. For example, as shown in FIG. 40, fixing a board member 96' in direction E onto adjacent two hubs 5 on the right and on the left (four in total) can reduce shearing deformation on the plane formed by the four hubs 5, thereby greatly reducing the development of twisting or rolling when people are going up and down the staircase.

Please amend the paragraph at page 70, line 26 through page 71, line 8, (paragraph 271 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

To link the upper frame members 112 to the upper hubs 111, as shown in FIG. 44(a), the linking end parts 112a of the upper frame members 112 are fitted (inserted) into the linking grooves 111a from the end face side of the upper hubs 111 in direction F. This work does not require welding or special tools, thereby providing high workability. Furthermore, in order to fill in the fine clearances created between the linking grooves 111a and the linking end parts 112a, it is also possible to pour glue or the like into the linking grooves 111a.

Please amend the paragraph at page 79, lines 2 through 16, (paragraph 297 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

To form the truss structural members 100 into units, first, as shown in FIG. 49(a), the plurality of upper hubs 111 are arranged in range with each other at predetermined intervals, and the upper hubs 111 and 111 adjacent to each other are linked in order by the upper frame members 112, and likewise, the plurality of lower hubs 121 are arranged in range with each other at predetermined intervals, and the lower hubs 121 and 121 adjacent to each other are linked in order by the lower frame members 122. To link the upper hubs 111 and the upper frame members 112, as shown in FIG. 44(a), the linking end parts 112a of the upper frame members 112 are fitted into the linking grooves 111a of the upper hubs 111, and to link the lower hubs 121 and the lower frame members 122, as shown in FIG. 44(b), the linking end parts 122a of the lower frame members 122 are fitted into the linking grooves 121a of the lower hubs 121 in direction G.

Please amend the paragraph at page 80, lines 6 through 12, (paragraph 299 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

Next, as shown in FIG. 49(a) and FIG. 49(b), the upper through member 113 is covered in direction H from above the upper hubs 111 and the upper frame member 112, and the tread receiving materials 150 are disposed to be the same in a position as that of

the upper hub 111, and the upper hub 111, the upper through member 113, and the tread receiving member 150 are integrally fixed by the bolt B1 and the nut N11.

Please amend the paragraph at page 80, line 20 through page 81, line 1 (paragraph 301 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

Likewise, the lower through member 123 is disposed in direction I along the lower hubs 121 and the lower frame members 122, the tread receiving members 150 are set on the side end faces of the lower hubs 121, and the lower hubs 121, the lower through member 123, and the tread receiving members 150 are fixed integrally by bolts B11 and nuts N11. At this point, to the side end faces on the outer sides of the lower hubs 121, washers 121d are attached for preventing the lower frame members 122 and the lattice members 130 from slipping outward (see FIG. 44(b)).

Please amend the paragraph at page 81, lines 9 through 12 (paragraph 303 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

In addition, as shown in FIG. 49(b), support shoes 140 are attached to each of the upper and lower ends of the upper chord members 110 and the upper and lower ends of the lower chord members 120 in directions J and K.

Please amend the paragraph at page 87, lines 1 through 18 (paragraph 320 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

Herein, the front side horizontal member 155 is a hollow extruded member with a rectangular section, and both ends thereof are externally fitted to receiving pieces 157 and 157 fixed to the side end faces of the right and left upper hubs 111 and 111, respectively, in directions L and M, whereby the front side horizontal member 155 is fixed to the side end face of the upper hub 111. Likewise, the rear side horizontal member 156 is a hollow extruded member with a rectangular section, and both ends thereof are externally fitted, respectively, in directions L and M to receiving pieces 157 and 157 fixed to the side end faces of the right and left lower hubs 111 and 111, whereby the rear side horizontal member 156 is fixed to the side end face of the lower hub 121. Furthermore, the receiving pieces 157 of the upper chord member 110 side are fixed to the side end faces of the upper hubs 111 together with the upper through member 113, and likewise, the receiving pieces 157 of the lower chord member 120 side are fixed to the side end faces of the lower hubs 121 together with the lower through member 123

Please amend the paragraph at page 87, line 26 through page 88, line 5 (paragraph 322 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

[0322] Furthermore, like the treads 160 shown in FIG. 55(a) and FIG. 55(b), it is also possible that the tread 160 itself is formed of a hollow extruded member, and both ends thereof are directly externally fitted to and fixed to the receiving pieces 157 and 157 in directions N and O. Namely, it is possible that the side end parts of the tread 160 are directly fixed to the side end face of the upper hub 111 and the side end face of the lower hub 121.

Please amend the paragraph at page 91, lines 19 through 26 (paragraph 337 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

The hubs 202, as shown in FIG. 64, are column-shaped, and are each provided with a plurality of linking grooves 202a carved on their outer surface along the axial direction P of the hubs 202, and with a bolt insertion hole 202b formed in the center on the end face. The hubs 202 are extrusions of aluminum alloy, and the linking grooves 202a and the bolt insertion holes 202b are formed when the aluminum alloy is extruded. It is also possible to form the hubs 202 by casting.

Please amend the paragraph at page 94, lines 19 through 25 (paragraph 346 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 66(a) is a cross sectional view taken along the line ~~X3-X3~~ 66(a)- 66(a) of FIG. 59; FIG. 66(b) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~X4-X4~~ 66(b)- 66(b) of FIG. 59 (the space truss structural member is seen from the direction of the slope of the staircase, and the brackets and treads are seen from the direction of the front of the staircase); FIG. 67(a) is a perspective view of the bracket; and FIG. 67(b) is a side view of the same.

Please amend the paragraph at page 103, lines 9 through 23 (paragraph 377 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 69 is an exploded perspective view of the staircase according to the eleventh embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 70(a) is a plan view to show the arrangement

of the upper chord members and the linking frame members of the space truss structural member composing the staircase according to the second embodiment of the present invention; FIG. 70(b) is a plan view to show the arrangement of the lower chord member and the lattice members of the same; FIG. 70(c) is a side view of the space truss structural member; FIG. 71 is a side view of the staircase according to the first embodiment of the present invention; and FIG. 72 is an enlarged view of FIG. 71. FIG. 70(a) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~X5-X5~~ 70(a)-70(a) of FIG. 71, and FIG. 70(b) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~X6-X6~~ 70(b)-70(b) of FIG. 71.

Please amend the paragraph at page 102, lines 9 through 18 (paragraph 437 in the published application) as indicated in the following amended paragraph:

Herein, FIG. 81(a) and FIG. 81(b) are exploded perspective views of the staircase according to the sixteenth embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 81(a), the brackets and treads are omitted. FIG. 82 is a side view of FIG. 81(b), and FIG. 83(a) is a view seen from the direction of the arrows ~~X7-X7~~ 83(a)-83(a) of FIG. 82 (a view of the space truss structural member seen from the staircase inclination direction and the bracket and treads seen from the front side of the staircase). FIG. 83(b) and FIG. 83(c) show modified examples of the staircase according to the sixteenth embodiment.